AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph from page 8, line 11 to page 9, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring back to stage 28, if another device on internal network 12 issues a response before device 16's time period has lapsed (36), device 16 receives (34) 54 the response. (Device 16 receives the response because the response is broadcast over internal network 12 using, e.g., ICMP.) Device 16 compares (56) the configuration information in the response to corresponding configuration information that is stored on device 16. If all or part of the stored configuration information does not match the configuration information in the response, device 16 assigns itself to be the unconfigured device and reconfigures itself. That is, device 16 takes the place of device 20 and performs process 24 in the manner described herein. If the stored configuration information matches the configuration information in the response, device 16 ignores (62) the response.